MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. Frankly speaking, I do not have before me the precedents. I will go through the records and look into it.

SHRI A. C. JOS : In the history of Parliament, a number of times, we have seen the Question Hour being suspended for issues like this. So, I urge you to excise your discretion.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): There have been incidents in the past when such a situation had arisen in the House. You yourself and the other hon. Speakers in the past had taken a decision to take the sense of the House. It is an extraordinary situation. I agree with you that the Motion is not in front of you but you can always give priority to a Motion which is already listed in the Agenda. Sensing the mood of the House, you are within your right to take a decision. I think this is a very complex situation. You can take the opinion of the House . A number of times you have said that you are with the House and that the House is supreme. Today, do not make the rules supreme.

SHRI A. C. JOS : In this case the Opposition Leader also will have no objection in taking a decision in favour of the Leader of the Congress Party. The majority of the House is of the unanimous opinion that the Question Hour should be suspended . So, you go by the majority of the House and take a decision.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : With your permission may I submit before you for a minute? My submission is related to your consent for a discussion. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Leader of the House. After the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Government appointed one Commission and then later on appointed another Commission.

In this House, several times in the past, you allowed Members to raise the issue of progress of the inquiry of the Commission and its findings. We are all grateful to you for that. Now, do you not think, Mr. Speaker, Sir, when after six years, such a sensitive issue found some line and link and found the light of the day and that matter is before the House. It should get the top priority than any other item? That is my only appeal to you. Shri Rajiv Gandhi - forget the name - was the Leader of the House. His cruel assassination was discussed in the House and you allowed Members several time to ask questions on the progress of the inquiry. Is it not conscience of all the Members that this issue should get the top priority of the House than any other item ? .....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, you are very right that ultimately the House is supreme and it can decide, whatever may be the rules, on such matters. But then, the Manual says that in such a situation the decision has to be unanimous. Shall I read the Manual?

"The Question Hour may be dispensed with, if the House agrees unanimously."

If the Government agrees to it, it becomes unanimous. They are not agreeing to it and, therefore, it is not unanimous. The main Opposition Party has agreed to it and the Congress is demanding for it but the Government is not agreeing to it.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : The Government has no objection for it. .....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Question Hour be suspended?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Thus Motion is carried. The Question Hour stands suspended.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.35½

[English]

Funds for Rural Roads

*21. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of funds made available for the development of roads in rural and tribal areas during each of the last three years and in the current year and the number of villages connected by link roads so far, State - wise;

(b) whether funds so allocated are reported to have been found inadequate for the development of rural roads;

(c) whether requests from certain State Governments have been received to increase the availability of funds on this account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government to each of the requests ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The extent of funds made available for development of roads in rural and tribal areas during each of the last three years is given in Statement-I. Quantum of funds for rural road development for the current year is not known as yet as the financial year is not over. State-wise information on the number of villages connected so far by link roads is given in Statement-II. Construction of roads including roads in rural and tribal areas is part of state Plans and necessary funds are earmarked for the purpose. Moreover, Additional Central Assistance is provided by the Planning Commission under the Basic Minimum Services Programme. The States have been given flexibility to earmark their own *interse* allocations among the 7 Basic

Minimum Services components, rural roads being one of them. Where rural roads are of a higher priority, the State Government can use Additional Central Assistance for Rural Roads.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A request had been received from the Minister of Panchayati Raj, Andhra Pradesh for construction of roads in areas affected by the extremist activity. He was informed that this Ministry has proposed to the Planning Commission to allocated funds to accelerate the pace of construction of rural roads throughout the country.

A proposal from the Minister of Agriculture, Government of Kerala was also received by this Ministry, a request was made therein for financial assistance for construction of link roads in the farm sector in Kerala. While pointing out that the Ministry had no separate budgetary provision, it was mentioned that, this Ministry had proposed to the Planning Commission a Scheme for Central Assistance to connect unconnected villages in various States/UTs.

Statement-I

Outlay/Expenditure on Minimum needs programme (Rural Roads) BMS

VIII Plan (1996-97) (Rs. in crores)

S. No.	States / UTs	Outlay	Expenditure			Total 1994-97 (Ant. Expr)
			1994-95 RE	1995-96 RE	1996-97 RE	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29.00	9.60	5.00	5.00	19.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75.00	14.34	16.01	43.59	73.94
3.	Assam	100.00	2.50	3.58	27.27	32.94
4.	Bihar	720.00	18.00	16.10	77.00	111.10
5.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	35.00	7.00	7.00	11.00	25.00
7.	Haryana	6.40	5.00	0.10	2.15	7.25
8.	Himachal Pradesh	91.00	13.94	15.00	40.27	69.21
9.	J & K	38.00	8.98	8.90	80.60	98.48
10.	Karnataka	120.00	39.36	16.93	67.07	123.95
11.	Kerala	-	-	-	23.00	23.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	110.00	13.52	18.50	20.18	52.20
13.	Maharashtra	100.00	32.57	37.80	56.28	126.65
14.	Manipur	40.00	6.10	9.50	43.50	59.10
15.	Meghalaya	25.00	9.04	10.73	12.40	32.17
16.	Mizoram	52.00	6.38	—	12.00	18.38
17.	Nagaland	30.00	0.94	4.50	13.78	19.22
18.	Orissa	80.00	45.13	38.22	44.77	128.12
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	200.00	39.20	95.07	115.48	249.75
21.	Sikkim	40.00	6.03	12.26	5.13	23.42
22.	Tamil Nadu	93.00	18.50	18.50	50.00	92.00
23.	Tripura	45.00	8.90	7.93	17.93	34.76
24.	U.P.	950.00	145.32	50.91	66.30	262.53
25.	West Bengal	82.00	9.50	21.00	86.25	116.75
	Total States	3061.40	459.84	413.54	921.55	1794.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	A&N Islands	—	—	—	7.50	7.50
27.	Chandigarh	2.00	0.45	0.45	0.48	1.38
28.	D & N Haveli	1.90	1.45	1.70	2.46	5.61
29.	Daman &Diu	0.80	0.34	0.34	0.35	1.03
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	20.72	20.72
31.	Lakshdweep	—	—	0.82	0.85	1.67
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—
	Total UTs	4.70	2.24	3.31	32.36	37.91
	Total (States + UTs)	3066.10	462.60	416.85	953.91	1832.84

Statement-II

Connectivity of No. of Villages with Population 1000 & above with all weather areas under the minimum needs programme (Rural Areas)

S. No.	States	Total No. of Villages	Total No. of* Villages connected by 1995-96
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13467	1047
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	81	71
3.	Assam	3719	3719
4.	Bihar	14332	9559
5.	Goa	226	201
6.	Gujarat	8300	8292
7.	Haryana	3470	3468
8.	Himachal Pradesh	459	450
9.	Jammu& Kashmir	1178	1035
10.	Karnataka	8396	6915
11.	Kerala	1262	1262
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7337	5742
13.	Maharastra	11328	11162
14.	Manipur	277	268
15.	Meghalaya	109	109
16.	Mizoram	342	342
17.	Nagaland	240	240
18.	Orissa	6173	5811
19.	Punjab	3346	3346
20.	Rajasthan	5707	5280
21.	Sikkim	69	64
22.	Tamil Nadu	6432	6424
23.	Tripura	535	535
24.	Uttar Pradesh	22295	18529
25.	West Bengal	10428	6705
	Total States	129506	110976
	Union Territories		
26.	A&N Island	31	31
27.	Chandigarh	16	16
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	38
29.	Daman & Diu	15	15
30.	Delhi	160	160
31.	Lakshdweep	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	84	84
	Total U.T.	344	344
	Grand Total (State+U.T.)	129852	111320

*Anticipated.

Train Accident

*22. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents/derailments including goods trains during the last three months till date, train/ location-wise;